

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

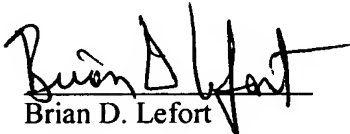
It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the above-referenced application, presented herein, be entered prior to examination.

The specification has been amended herein to correct the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" section to include the entire lineage from which the present application claims benefit of and priority to.

By way of this amendment, Claims 3-9 and 13-18 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, and 10-12 are original.

It is believed that no fee is due for entry of the present amendment, however, if it is determined that a fee is required for entry of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0550 in the name of United States Surgical Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Brian D. Lefort  
43,747  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

***TYCO Healthcare Group, LP***  
150 Glover Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06896  
Telephone: (203) 845-1358  
Fax: (203) 845-4266